

STATE RANKING

Illinois had the 5th largest Latino population in the U.S.¹

K-12 POPULATION

In Illinois, 21% of the K-12 population was Latino.²

STATE POPULATION

In Illinois, 16% of the state population was Latino.³ Projections show a continued increase.

MEDIAN AGE

The median age of Latinos in Illinois was 26, compared to 39 for White non-Hispanics.⁴

DEGREE ATTAINMENT

In Illinois, 18% of Latino adults (25 to 64 years old) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to 41% of all adults.⁵

For the U.S. to regain the top ranking in the world for college degree attainment, Latinos will need to earn 5.5 million degrees by 2020.

To reach the degree attainment goal by 2020, Illinois can: 1) close the equity gap in college completion; 2) increase the number of degrees conferred; and, 3) scale up programs and initiatives that work for Latino and other students. The following is a framework for tracking Latino degree attainment in Illinois.

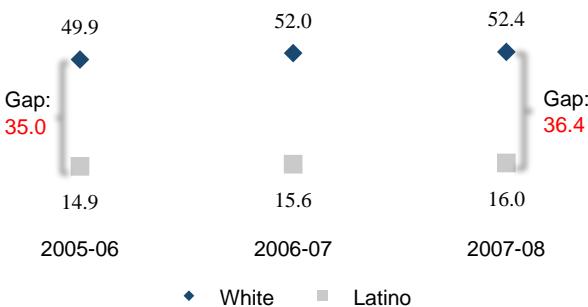
Equity Gap in Degree Completion

Closing the equity gap in college completion can be tracked by the 3 measures provided below. Alone, none of these measures capture the entire “story” of equity in degree completion. However, in combination, they provide a useful picture of the equity gap in degree attainment between Latino and white cohorts in Illinois in a single year (2007-08) and the persistence of the gap over time (2006-08).

Illinois	2007-08		
	Latinos	Whites	Equity Gap
Graduation Rates	35.8	50.6	14.8
Completions per 100 FTE Students	12.9	17.3	4.4
Completions Relative to the Population in Need	16.0	52.4	36.4

Graduation rates - Total graduation within 150% percent of program time for first-time, full-time freshman
Completions per 100 FTE students – Total undergraduate degrees and certificates awarded per 100 full-time equivalent students (incorporates part-time students)
Completions Relative to the Population in Need – Total undergraduate degrees and certificates awarded per 1,000 adults aged 18 to 44 relative to the adult population with no college degree

Completions Relative to the Population in Need: 2006 to 2008



¹ U.S. Census 2010, American Fact Finder, Demographic Profile Summary. <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

² U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Public Elementary/Secondary Education Survey", 2009-10, v.1b. [www.nces.ed.gov/ccd](http://nces.ed.gov/ccd)

³ U.S. Census 2010: Illinois. <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/data/>

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey. www.census.gov/acs

⁵ Lumina Foundation for Education. *A Stronger Nation Through Higher Education. Educational Attainment Levels for the States.* www.luminafoundation.org

Degrees Conferred

Another metric to benchmark college completion is to track the progress of total degrees awarded over time. This measure may be the result of an increase in overall enrollment numbers rather than an increase in rates of completion. From 2005-06 to 2007-08,

- the number of Hispanics who earned an undergraduate degree in Illinois increased about 7% from 2006-08, while all other race/ethnic groups decreased 2%.
- Illinois had one of the largest increases in degrees conferred to Latinos over 3 years among the top 10 states enrolling Latinos.

For more information on these metrics, download *Benchmarking Latino College Completion to Meet National Goals: 2010 to 2020* and *Degrees Conferred to Latinos: 2006-2008* at www.EdExcelencia.org/research/EAF/Benchmarking

Examples of What Works for Latino Students

There are institutions in Illinois showing success in enrolling, retaining, and graduating Latino students. The following are examples of institutional programs with evidence of effectiveness in serving Latino students nominated for Examples of *Excelencia*.

Proyecto Pa'Lante - Northeastern Illinois University

Proyecto Pa'Lante at Northeastern Illinois University is a program committed to recruiting primarily Latino students who demonstrate academic potential but do not meet general admission requirements. This is accomplished by providing support in the areas of academic advisement, tutoring, vocational, career, personal, and financial counseling, and providing an environmental support system relevant to the development of a positive self-image and a feeling of belonging. Since 2002, Proyecto Pa'Lante has graduated 143 students from Northeastern Illinois University and has an 80% persistence rate from year one to year two at the University, which is higher than the cohort of students who are not participating in the program. In addition, 345 students during the past five years have been recognized for academic achievement having earned at least a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

(http://www.neiu.edu/Academics/Academic%20Development/Programs%20and%20Services/Proyecto%20PaLante/Proyecto_PaLante_Home.html)

Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration (HVAC) Program - Elgin Community College

The HVACR Program at Elgin Community College has been especially successful in recruiting, enrolling, retaining, and graduating Latino students because it offers students the opportunity to study full or part time and to attend college while living at home and contributing to family support. Currently, 31% of ECC-HACVR student are Latino, while six years ago, college wide, only 9% of students earning associate degrees in applied science and vocational certificates were Latino. In fiscal year 2005, the college's overall enrollment was at a historical peak, and 273 Latino students received a degree or certificate from the program- three times as many as the 90 completers in 2001. (<http://www.elgin.edu/catalogprograms/Depts.aspx?Dept=HAC&Show=Y>)

For more information on institutional programs improving Latino student success in higher education, access *Excelencia* in Education's Growing What Works database at <http://www.edexcelencia.org/examples>

Ensuring America's Future partners in Illinois:

CEOs for Cities: www.ceosforcities.org

City Colleges of Chicago: www.ccc.edu

Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC): www.mhec.org